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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, or claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material having a hot ceramic side and a cool metal side and a graded ceramic-metal zone therebetween, wherein the ceramic content of said composite ranges from 100% at said hot ceramic side to 0% at said cool metal side and the metal content of said composite ranges from 0% at said hot ceramic side to 100% at said cool metal side, and wherein said fiber reinforcement is graded by coefficient of thermal expansion from said hot ceramic side to said cool metal side to withstand a temperature differential of at or greater than 100°C wherein said metal is thermally conductive ~~content comprises material selected for thermal conductivity.~~

5. (previously presented) The fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material of claim 4 wherein the fiber in the hot region has a lower coefficient of thermal expansion than the fiber in the cool region.

6. (previously presented) The fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material of claim 4 wherein the fiber in the hot region has a higher coefficient of thermal expansion than the fiber in the cool region.

7. (currently amended) A fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material having a hot ceramic side and a cool metal side and a graded ceramic-metal zone therebetween, wherein the ceramic content of said composite ranges from 100% at said hot ceramic side to 0% at said cool metal side and the metal content of said composite ranges from 0% at said hot ceramic side to 100% at said cool metal side, and wherein said fiber

reinforcement is graded by coefficient of thermal expansion from said hot ceramic side to said cool metal side to withstand a temperature differential of at or greater than 100°C wherein said metal augments the load bearing capacity of said composite ~~content comprises material selected for load bearing capacity.~~

8. (previously presented) The fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material of claim 7 wherein the fiber in the hot region has a lower coefficient of thermal expansion than the fiber in the cool region.

9. (previously presented) The fiber-reinforced metal-ceramic composite material of claim 7 wherein the fiber in the hot region has a higher coefficient of thermal expansion than the fiber in the cool region.